

College, Vietnam and drug use ... 1960-1973

1960

The state's young Governor Mark O. Hatfield spoke to the Coquille Chamber of Commerce. He pledged support of the Highway 42 modernization project. The Coquille Valley Elks lost their lodge to a fire that started in the attic. Mills donated lumber to build a new lodge. Coquille population totals 4,730; Myrtle Point climbs to 2,886; county now totals 54,955.

1961

Coquille Valley Bank was purchased by the U.S. National Bank. Senator Chapman submitted a bill calling for a community college in Coos County. Coquille offered a site. Publisher of the North Bend News, Fred Haas, bought the Coquille Valley Sentinel.

1962

Southwest Oregon Community College Board of Directors declines Coquille's offer of a free 170-acre site on Shelley Road; accepts Empire offer of 56 acre site. West Coast Telephone brings phone dialing (in place of operator dialing) and seven digit phone numbers to Coquille. The "Twist" dance fad was banned from junior high dances and dance classes. Worst storm in Oregon brings 100 m.p.h. winds through Coquille Valley. Coquille's new fire station completed.

1963

A travelling vagrant sued the Coquille city manager and chief of police for "humiliation and embarrassment" suffered from forced haircut while in jail. The suit was later dropped. City council enacts new ordinance forbidding electric fences in Coquille. City considers building a hospital.

1964

Coos county log truckers object to Public Utilities Commission regulation of a maximum 10-hour day. Police crack down on teenage drinking. Police begin using "radar speed-checking device." City council votes to remove parking meters. Holy Name Catholic church says Mass in English for the first time.

1965

Majority of Coquille residents polled by the Sentinel say stay in Viet Nam and finish the job. Coquille High School has a record 169 graduates. E. N. "Corky" Daniels named as new police chief. Safeway clerks go on strike. Coos County Commissioner J.J. "Bob" Geaney, called a "dictator" by his critics, was recalled by voters.

1966

New post office building completed and dedicated. Seventeen-year-old Coquille resident charged with attempted car bombing of grocery clerk Margaret Holton. The bridge north of Powers collapsed due to blasting of dynamite in the area. Oregon voters pass 4 cent cigarette tax.

1968

First marijuana bust takes place in Coquille. Construction begins on Coquille Valley Hospital begins. Contract awarded to Drake Construction Company.

1969

Snow storm smothers Coquille. At least 10 inches of snow on the ground. Coos county youth experiment with marijuana, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates and speed. Dynamite bomb placed on south lawn of Coos County Courthouse explodes, damaging courthouse.

1970

Population in census shows Coquille 4,437; Myrtle Point 2,511; and Coos County 56,515. Coquille Valley Hospital construction completed. Hospital is

dedicated. McKays builds supermarket in Coquille. Voters reject a jail and Bay Annex in May primary. Coquille named as U.S. District Court site.

1971

Drug education program begins in schools. Coquille resident John Lanning Wilson Jr., 19, dies from sniper fire in Viet Nam. Security Bank opens in Coquille. Voters approve new middle school. Highway 42 improvement project completed.

1972

State Police and Highway Department move from Coquille to Bay Area to be on Highway 101 and at a larger population center. After a 12% tax increase, Coos County goes from 4th place to highest taxed in state.

1973

City officials seek help from federal government to lessen gas rationing. Roger Lynn Green, 23, of Coquille sentenced to life in prison for the shooting deaths of two 16-year-old girls. Officer Hagen delivers a baby at a motel while waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

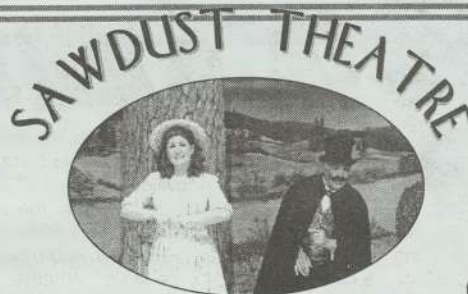
Oldtime Coquille photographer



This portrait was one of many taken by oldtime Coquille photographer Charles Wilkins. He had a studio in Coquille, and road the riverboats taking photographs.

Founded by John Moore, with direction from Dorothy Ley, "Drusilla of the Gold Country" or "Virtue Triumphs in the Sawmill" opened the first exciting season of Coquille's summer theatre in 1967. Though not much more than just some unpainted plywood and a few spirited individuals, the Sawdust Theatre was off to a grand beginning, with tickets nearly selling out each night of their first run. Not much has changed in over 30 years, that is, if you don't count the Roxy Building Fire in 1994 which moved the Sawdusters into their own building at 3 E. First Street in Coquille on May 24, 1997.

Although melodramas are the main production, the theatre is now providing many other uses. The Coquille Performing Arts Council presents shows, plays, and musicals, the schools use the theatre for plays and many service clubs and other community groups are finding the Sawdust Theatre the perfect place for many of their programs or activities. The



Sawdust Theatre has become a truly year-round community performance center.

This year "The Colossal Cranberry Caper," or "Boondoggled in the Bog", directed by Becky Capps, marked their 35th Anniversary.

Shows are presented every Saturday night from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and Friday nights from early July until Labor Day weekend. Doors open at 7 pm and the curtain goes up at 8 pm each evening. Tickets may be obtained at River Bend Floral & Gifts or at the door. As always, reservations are highly recommended and can be made by calling 396-4563.

